

How do you know who to follow? Jesus calls His disciples (Mark 1:16-20)

1. How do you know if you're following the only true God? How do Simon, Andrew, James and John drop everything to follow Jesus?

16) As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17) "Follow me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fish for people." 18) Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19) Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. 20) Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. (Mark 1:16-20, CSB)

2. When you read the Bible, try to understand events in their proper context of time. By understanding the sequence of events, you'll be able to draw accurate conclusions and lessons. Before Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee, he met John the Baptist in Bethany by the Jordan river.

35) The next day, John was standing with two of his disciples. 36) When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

37) The two disciples heard him say this and followed Jesus. 38) When Jesus turned and noticed them following him, he asked them, "What are you looking for?"

They said to him, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

39) "Come and you'll see," he replied. So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

40) Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed him. 41) He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated "the Christ"), 42) and he brought Simon to Jesus.

When Jesus saw him, he said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated "Peter"). 43) The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. He found Philip and told him, "Follow me." (John 1:35-43, CSB)

What do you observe about Andrew and Simon? Why did they drop everything and follow Jesus?

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Wild Stories About Jesus and Max7.org): This episode of WILD STORIES ABOUT JESUS retells Mark 1.16-20, highlighting Jesus calling His disciples. This video is suitable for showing in schools, kids' clubs and churches and could be helpful for family devotions.

1. How do you know if you're following the only true God? How do Simon, Andrew, James and John drop everything to follow Jesus?

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Ask the student: when you listen to this passage, what do you notice about Simon / Andrew and James / John's response to Jesus?

Simon / Andrew and James / John responded obediently to Jesus' call to "follow" Him.

Ask the student: did Simon / Andrew and James / John know Jesus? How would you respond when someone called out and said, "follow me!"

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What do you observe about Andrew and Simon? Why did they drop everything and follow Jesus?

Ask the student: what do you observe about Andrew?

Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who identified Jesus as the Christ Messiah. He told his brother Simon who was also an Old Testament Believer, and both went to visit Jesus. So both Andrew and his brother Simon knew Jesus before He came to the Sea of Galilee and called them to "follow" Him.